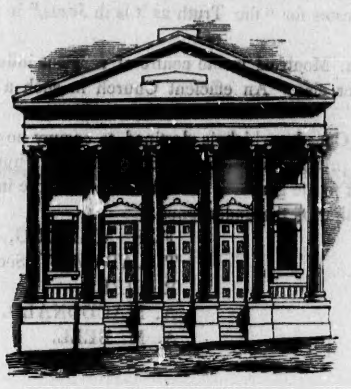
Pres. Miss M. Gould. Sept. 24 '21

GOSFORD STREET CHURCH, MONTREAL.



The neat and commodious Church-Edifice represented above, was erected in 1843-4, for the use of the Second Congregational Church, Montreal. This Church was formed February 12th, 1843, by fifteen members dismissed for that purpose from the First Church, which was then, as now, under the charge of Rev. H. Wilkes. Rev. J. J. Carruthers was the first Pastor of the new Church, and his labors were so highly acceptable and useful, that it was determined to erect an Edifice of an attractive kind, in a prominent position. In 1846, Dr. Carruthers removed to Portland, Maine. His loss was severely felt. For more than two years, every effort to obtain another Pastor was unavailing. Many of the congregation went to other Churches, and many others left the City. Then came the awful commercial crisis of 1847-8, bringing almost universal ruin. Very few were left to hope and pray for a revival of the cause. But their prayers were heard; in September, 1848, the present Pastor was brought among them, and after a year's labor, through which not a few were brought into Christ's fold, was ordained. The Church has since gone on, in spite of many difficulties within and without, slowly but steadily increasing, 50 members having been added in four years. Many times it has seemed "ready to die," but as often God has quickened it again. It was never in so promising a state as now.

The greatest drawback to the full success of the Church has consisted in their not being Proprietors of the Place of Worship, dwelling in it, but as in "their own *hired* house." It was at first held by three members of the body, but fell since into the hands of one. The connection of these parties with the property has involved them in a heavy loss. But the time seems to have arrived, when the Church should acquire the Building for themselves. Since Dr. Carruthers' removal, all the expenses of the Church, amounting to about $1000 per annum, have been borne by the people themselves, though only by dint of great effort and self-denial. But the Colonial Missionary Society (of England) has lately made a grant in aid of the Pastor's support, upon the people pledging themselves to do their utmost to secure the property. The original cost was about $14,000; it was recently appraised at $12,000; and has now been offered to the Church for $9,000, of which $2,000 are required by December. This offer has been accepted, and the friends of the cause will raise this year upwards of $1600. The balance of the purchase money is to be paid in instalments ranging over eleven years. The Church are anxious to anticipate these payments, and at once to reduce the debt to the lowest possible amount. For this purpose they make the present appeal to other Christian communities.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE GROUNDS ON WHICH IT IS URGED:—

1. This Church has manifestly enjoyed the Divine presence and blessing, and never more than of late.

2. It has struggled hard with great difficulties, though having neither great numbers (only 60 members) nor wealth, and therefore deserves to be encouraged.

3. If once in secure possession of the Church-Edifice, there is no reason to doubt that the cause will be increasingly and permanently prosperous.

4. The purchase now made is universally considered most favorable, as to price and terms.

5. The erection of a House of Worship with funds derived from the sale of pews, as is the custom in the U. S., would be impossible in a state of Society so different. The sittings in this Church are all free, the expenses being met by voluntary contributions.

5492

6. The utmost care has been taken in framing the Trust Deed, to secure the property inalienably to its present use.

7. This Church is situated on the edge of the scene of the Great Fire of July, 1852. The burnt district is being rapidly re-built, and promises hereafter to be occupied by a British, instead of a French, population.

8. Montreal is now increasing, in wealth and population, at an unprecedented rate. There is an ample field for all the Churches.

9. It is most important to multiply the Witnesses for "the Truth as it is in Jesus," in a City so Popish, that it is not unaptly called "the Rome of North America."

10. As the Commercial Metropolis of Canada, Montreal is the centre of religious influences and operations to all the Lower Province, and to no small extent, to the Upper also. An efficient Church in such a place, makes itself felt throughout the whole country.

Lastly,—The present time is the Infancy of Canada, which is destined to occupy no unimportant position on this continent. Her whole future well-being is involved in the prevalence of such principles as this Church is established to spread.

With these statements, the case is now left to the generous consideration of those into whose hands this paper may come. Any donation will be thankfully received by either of the undersigned.

F. H. MARLING, PASTOR.
T. LADYMAN, Sec. & Treas.
R. BIRKS.
A. MACDONALD.
A. M. BELL.
} Trustees of the Building Fund.

Montreal, May, 1853.

PARTICULAR ATTENTION IS REQUESTED TO THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Second Congregational Church in this City has exhibited a striking instance of the tenacity of life, amid the utmost discouragements, on the part of a Christian organization, however feeble, which is sustained by faith and prayer. The facts of the case, as stated by their Pastor, the Rev. F. H. Marling, may be relied upon as unvarnished and truthful. The early prospects of the Church were good. They were blighted by circumstances over which they had no control. When two years without a Pastor, a nucleus held together, determined if possible to succeed. The pastorate of my friend Mr. Marling has been one of much pecuniary self-denial, but God has blessed it among the people, "HAVING GIVEN TESTIMONY TO THE WORD OF HIS GRACE." The institution cannot rise into strength and permanency without the ownership of the Building in which they worship. They have now the opportunity of acquiring that on reasonable terms. But they must raise during the current year, THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS, if they are to be placed in safety. Of this sum, few and without wealth as they are, I think they will raise from TWELVE TO FOURTEEN HUNDRED. My Church, itself burdened with debt, CANNOT HELP THEM. It is struggling to be free. But in his anticipated tour Mr. Marling will meet with many who CAN HELP THEM. I most cordially recommend his application to their liberal consideration. We cannot afford to lose the light of an Evangelical Church from this Romish City. May the Lord give my excellent brother favour in the eyes of all His people.

HENRY WILKES,
Pastor, First Congregational Church.

Montreal, May 13th, 1853.

We have great pleasure in uniting with the testimony of Dr. Wilkes, respecting the condition and claims of the Second Congregational Church of this place; and sincerely hope that such success may attend the efforts of our brother Mr. Marling, as may save an important Church to the cause of Evangelical Religion in this City.

JOHN McLOUD, Pastor of the American Presbyterian Church.
W. TAYLOR, D. D., United Presbyterian Church.
P. CHURCH, D. D., Pastor of the Baptist Church.
DAVID INGLIS, Minister of St. Gabriel Street (Free) Church.
D. FRASER, Minister of the Free Church, Coté Street.
JOHN JENKINS, Superintendent, Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Montreal, May 16th, 1853.

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